

## Post office

*Continued from page A1*

inconvenient location.

"I understand their efforts to consolidate, but it just seems crazy," she said. "If they are going to try to serve the community, it should be 'in' the community and not in the industrial district."

The announcement about possible closure comes at a time when the USPS is struggling.

"The main driver of this is the postal service has lost a lot of revenue because people have curtailed their mailing due to the economy," Hass said. The national mail system receives no tax subsidy for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.

In November, it was announced that the USPS would endure an estimated net loss of \$3.8 billion by the end of 2009, despite drastic cost cutting efforts of \$6 billion during the past year. These cuts included 40,000 career USPS employees as well as reductions in overtime hours, transportation and other costs.

"Our 2009 fiscal year proved to be one of the most challenging in the history

## COMMENT PERIOD EXTENDED

The United States Postal Service is accepting comments on the potential closure of the downtown Camas post office through Thursday, Dec. 31, (extended from the original closing date of Friday, Dec. 25). Correspondence can be sent to Consumer Affairs, U.S. Postal Service, 715 N.W. Hoyt St., Portland, OR 97209.

of the Postal Service," said Chief Financial Officer Joseph Corbett in a press release. "The deep economic recession, and to a lesser extent the ongoing migration of mail to electronic alternatives, significantly affected all mail products, creating a large imbalance between revenues and costs."

The postal service is accepting public comment on the proposed closure through Dec. 31. Anderson said a decision is expected by the end of January or early February.

The full-service downtown Washougal USPS branch is not under threat of closure at this time.

For Rider, the downtown Camas post office — which has been open since 1939 — is more than just a place to mail and pickup letters

and packages. While in town, she often frequents the surrounding area's small shops, restaurants, grocery store and library.

"You see people at the post office you maybe haven't seen in months," she said. "There's a lot of synergy that goes on just from people seeing each other and talking about what's been going on in the community."

Anderson said consideration of the closure is based on economics.

"Post offices in so many communities are such a cornerstone to everything that is going on," he said. "We aren't leaving though, we're just re-arranging things in a way that economically makes sense and is still providing a quality service to our customers."